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UNCLAS USNATO 000418

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: NATO PREL MCAP NK

SUBJECT: NAC STATEMENT ON DPRK MISSILE LAUNCHES

11. The North Atlantic Council on July 5 discussed North Korea's multiple launches of ballistic missiles and agreed to issue the statement below on behalf of the 26 nations. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer plans also to meet with the press.

12. Begin NAC Statement:

NATO North Atlantic Council Statement on the DPRK On July 5, the North Atlantic Council met in Brussels to express the Alliance,s grave concern over North Korea's launch of a Taepodong-2 and other missiles. North Korea's development, deployment, and proliferation of ballistic UNCLASSIFIED 2 of 2 UNCLASSIFIED 2 of 2

missiles, missile-related materials, equipment, and technology pose a serious threat to the region and the international community at large. We regret and condemn this launch. This action will only further isolate North Korea from the international community and harm the interests of

its people.

North Korea's missile programs and provocative actions necessitate a firm response from the international community, and we will support the international community,s efforts to address this matter broadly, including at the UN Security Council.

We call on the DPRK to cease immediately the development of long-range missiles, to reconfirm its moratorium on all long-range missile launches, to abide by the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime, and to subscribe to the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

We urge the DPRK to immediately return to the Six-Party Talks without precondition, to work toward the expeditious implementation of the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement, and to completely and verifiably eliminate its nuclear weapons and related programs.

End text.

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